



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
1 February 2000

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, listed in sections II to IV below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2000.

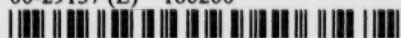
II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,¹ adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full



Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, was to make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

8. At its fifty-fourth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,² the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/91 of 6 December 1999, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1999, including the programme of work envisaged for 2000,³ and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and, in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, including through the dispatch of visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

(d) To develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the end of 2000 to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories commencing the week beginning 25 May.⁴

In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2000.

9. As at 1 January 2000, the Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

III. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 1999

10. In addition to resolution 54/91, the Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and 4 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 1999, which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Special Committee's programme of work for 2000.

A. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific Territories**1. Resolutions**

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Western Sahara	54/87	6 December 1999
New Caledonia	54/88	6 December 1999
Tokelau	54/89	6 December 1999
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	54/90 A and B	6 December 1999

2. Decisions

<i>Territory</i>	<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	54/412	4 November 1999
East Timor	54/422	6 December 1999
Gibraltar	54/423	6 December 1999

B. Resolutions concerning other items

<i>Title</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	54/83	6 December 1999
Economic and other activities which affect the interest of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories	54/84	6 December 1999
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	54/85	6 December 1999
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	54/86	6 December 1999
Dissemination of information on decolonization	54/92	6 December 1999

C. Decision concerning other questions

<i>Title</i>	<i>Decision number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	54/421	6 December 1999

IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

11. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor	54/20	29 October 1999
Oceans and the law of the sea	54/31	24 November 1999
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	54/35	24 November 1999
Questions relating to information	54/82 A and B	6 December 1999
Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for East Timor	54/96 H	15 December 1999
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action	54/141	17 December 1999
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	54/150	17 December 1999
Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	54/151	17 December 1999
Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance	54/154	17 December 1999
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	54/155	17 December 1999
The right to development	54/175	17 December 1999
Question of East Timor	54/194	17 December 1999
Convention on Biological Diversity	54/221	22 December 1999
Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	54/224	22 December 1999
Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor	54/246	23 December 1999
Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999	54/247	23 December 1999
Pattern of conferences	54/248	23 December 1999
Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001	54/249	23 December 1999
Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001	54/250	23 December 1999

Notes

¹ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-fourth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23)*; *ibid.*, *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/52/23)*; *ibid.*, *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/53/23)*; and A/54/23.

² A/54/23 (Parts I-III) (to be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/54/23)*).

³ *Ibid.*, Part I, chap. I, sect. J.

⁴ Resolution 2911 (XXVII).



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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items directly at its plenary meetings. Since 1997, the meetings of the Bureau have been open to all the members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee has increasingly relied upon informal consultations, thus striving to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee to continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during the year. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chairman would like to draw the attention of the Special Committee, in particular, to paragraph 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 54/91 of 6 December 1999, by which the Special Committee was requested to develop a

constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the end of the year 2000 to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including resolutions on specific Territories, as well as the intent of the Special Committee to conclude the critical review of its work, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.¹

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2000/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33), as well as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade.²



3. Order of priority for consideration of items

Notes

5. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

¹ A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 84.

² A/46/634/Rev.1.

³ A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 49.

6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1)*, chap. I, paras. 60-69.

7. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.³

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979 and in the light of past experience and established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session⁴ authorizing its Rapporteur to reformulate its decisions into draft decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend to its Rapporteur to continue to follow the format of its report to the General Assembly adopted at the 1999 session of the Special Committee.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Annex

Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2000

<i>Question</i>	<i>Procedure for consideration</i>
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories (General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII) and decision 37/421)	As appropriate
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex))	"
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 54/83)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/84)	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 54/421)	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 54/85)	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/86)	"
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 54/87)	"
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 54/88)	"
East Timor	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly decision 54/412)	"
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 54/423)	"
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 54/89)	"
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Guam (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
St. Helena (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/97, paras. 8 (c) and 14)	"

<i>Question</i>	<i>Procedure for consideration</i>
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/91, para. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific territories
Matters relating to the small Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/91, para. 8 (c))	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/92)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 6 July 1999 concerning Puerto Rico (A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 38)	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 54/248)	"
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/1999/L.12, paras. 2-3)	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/1999/L.12, para. 10)	"
Critical review of the work of the Special Committee (A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, paras. 84 and 85)	"
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention)	"

Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Friday, 18 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
February-March [Number of meetings and dates to be determined]	Continuation of the critical review of the work of the Special Committee
March (2 meetings)	Organization of the forthcoming Pacific Regional Seminar
Thursday, 25 May (1 meeting)	Observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights
Monday, 5 June (1 meeting)	Question of Gibraltar
	Question of the dissemination of information on decolonization
	Question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
Tuesday-Friday 6-9 June (4 meetings)	Question of Western Sahara
	Question of East Timor
Monday-Thursday 12-15 June (4 meetings)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
	Question of New Caledonia
	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
Monday, 19 June (1 meeting)	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Report of the Pacific Regional Seminar
Monday-Thursday 26-29 June (4 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 6 July 1999 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Thursday-Friday 6-7 July (2 meetings)	Implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies
	Report of the Special Committee: adoption of the recommendations



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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

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Note by the Chairman

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2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee to continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

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resolution 54/91 of 6 December 1999, by which the Special Committee was requested to develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the end of the year 2000 to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including resolutions on specific Territories, as well as the intent of the Special Committee to conclude the critical review of its work, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.¹

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2000/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33), as well as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade.²

* Reissued for technical reasons.



3. Order of priority for consideration of items

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6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 54/85)	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/86)	"
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 54/87)	"
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 54/88)	"
East Timor (General Assembly resolution 54/194)	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly decision 54/412)	"
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 54/423)	"
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 54/89)	"
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Guam (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
St. Helena (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"

<i>Question</i>	<i>Procedure for consideration</i>
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 54/98 A and B)	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/97, paras. 8 (c) and 14)	"
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/91, para. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific territories
Matters relating to the small Territories (General Assembly resolution 54/91, para. 8 (c))	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 54/92)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 6 July 1999 concerning Puerto Rico (A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 38)	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 54/248)	"
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/1999/L.12, paras. 2-3)	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/1999/L.12, para. 10)	"
Critical review of the work of the Special Committee (A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, paras. 84 and 85)	"
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention)	"

Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

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	Question of the dissemination of information on decolonization
	Question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
Tuesday-Friday 6-9 June (4 meetings)	Question of Western Sahara
	Question of East Timor
Monday-Thursday 12-15 June (4 meetings)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
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	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
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